

Appln No. 09/516,859
Amdt date July 11, 2003
Reply to Office action of April 28, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-2, 4, 7-8, 10, 13-15, and 17-18 are now pending in this application. Applicant has amended claims 1, 8, and 13, canceled claims 3, 5-6, 9, 11-12, and 16, and added new claim 18. The amendments find full support in the original specification, claims, and drawings. No new matter has been added. In view of the above amendments and remarks that follow, Applicant respectfully requests reexamination, reconsideration, and an early indication of allowance of claims 1-2, 4, 7-8, 10, 13-15, and 17-18.

The Examiner objects to the specification because of an error in the reference numbering. Applicant has corrected the specification as suggested by the Examiner and has therefore obviated this rejection.

The Examiner objects to claims 5-6 and 11-12 under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as allegedly being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Claims 5-6 and 11-12 have been canceled. Applicant therefore requests withdrawal of the objection under 37 CFR 1.75(c).

The Examiner rejects claims 1-2, 5-6, 7-8, and 11-15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over IEEE standard 802.1Q (the IEEE standard). The Examiner however, indicates that claims 3-4, 9-10, and 16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 17 stands allowed.

Claims 1, 8, and 13 have been amended to include the limitations of canceled claims 3, 9, and 16, respectively.

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Accordingly, claims 1, 8, and 13 are now in condition for allowance.

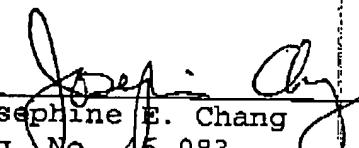
Claims 2, 4, 7, 10, 14-15, and 18 are also in condition for allowance because they depend on an allowable base claim, and for the additional limitations contained therein.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reexamination, reconsideration, and an early indication of allowance of claims 1-2, 4, 7-8, 10, 13-15, and 17-18.

Respectfully submitted,

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JEC/daa

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